

What is claimed is:

1. A stabilized ascorbic acid composition comprising:
 - (a) about 2 to about 25 wt % of L-ascorbic acid,
 - (b) about 0.1 to about 10 wt % of at least one selected from the group consisting of non-film forming cationic polymers and cationic surfactants, and
 - (c) about 0.1 to about 70 wt % of at least one selected from the group consisting of humectants, polymers with humectant properties, and inorganic driers,wherein the ratio of ingredient (a) to ingredient (b) is about 0.02:1 to about 1:1, and wherein said composition is stable when stored at room temperature for a period of at least ten weeks.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein ingredient (b) forms complexes with both the ionized and the non-ionized forms of L-ascorbic acid.
3. The composition of claim 1 which is stable at a pH from about 2 to about 7 at room temperature.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein said cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkyltrimonium chloride and alkyltrimonium bromide.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said cationic polymers are water-soluble.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein said cationic polymers are selected from the group consisting of guar cationic gums, cationic collagens, cationic keratins, cationic celluloses and cationic hydrolyzed proteins.

7. The composition of claim 1 said composition displays a negative deviation from Raoult's Law.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein said humectant is an organic molecule having a plurality of hydroxyl groups.

9. The composition of claim 1 wherein said humectant forms multiple hydrogen bonds such that said composition displays a negative deviation from Raoult's Law.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein said inorganic drier forms stable water-metal ion complexes.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein said polymer with humectant properties forms multiple hydrogen bonds with water molecules thereby reducing the mobility of water molecules.

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the said polymer with humectant properties also forms multiple hydrogen bonds with ascorbic acid molecules.

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein said polymer with humectant properties is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene glycol, poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(vinylpyrrolidone) copolymers, cellulose and cellulose derivatives.

14. The composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of said polymer with humectant properties is about 0.1 wt% to about 20 wt%.

15. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a metal sequestering agent.

16. An emulsion comprising:

- (i) an oil phase, and
- (ii) a water phase comprising the composition of claim 1.

17. The emulsion of claim 16 wherein said oil phase comprises one selected from the group consisting of an oil, an emulsifier and mixtures thereof.

18. The composition of claim 16 which is a water-in-oil (w/o) emulsion.

19. The composition of claim 16 which is an oil-in-water (o/w) emulsion.

20. The composition of claim 16 which is a water-in-oil-in-water (w/o/w) emulsion.

21. The composition of claim 20 wherein the oil phase of said w/o/w emulsion comprises a silicone oil, and wherein the inner water phase of said w/o/w emulsion comprises said ingredients (a)-(c).

22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the concentration of ascorbic acid in said inner water phase is about 1% to about 7%.

23. The composition of claim 21 wherein the outer water phase comprises sepiigel gel emulsifier.

24. The composition of claim 23 wherein said oil phase comprises a silicone oil and a silicone oil copolyol.

25. A method of making an L-ascorbic acid composition that is stable when stored at room temperature for a period of at least two months, said method comprising the step of combining

- (a) about 2 to about 25 wt % of L-ascorbic acid,
- (b) about 0.1 to about 10 wt % of at least one selected from the group consisting of non-film forming cationic polymers and cationic surfactants, and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 70 wt % of at least one selected from the group consisting of humectants, polymers with humectant properties, and inorganic driers,

wherein the ratio of ingredient (a) to ingredient (b) is about 0.02:1 to about 1:1.

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